

## Testimony before the Appropriations Committee

3/11/10

Barbara Albert

Good afternoon members of the Appropriations Committee, also everyone else. My name is Barbara Albert, renter in Hartford, registered voter, advocate for Human Rights, and Multiply Medically Challenged. I'm on Social Security Disability, Medicare and Medicaid.

I'm here to respectfully request legislators to reject proposals that further restrict access to medications, whether it be by changing the medical necessity definition, adding even more copays on prescriptions, and imposing copays on medical services.

I'm very well aware that money driven medicine is not just at the state level. I believe there is no justification for making access to basic human needs more challenging for those of us who need help most, when big corporations keep getting federal bailouts.

Connecticut, the "alleged" richest state in the country, while its capital city, nearly a third of us are living below the federal poverty level. Hartford has the highest poverty level of any city in the nation. (According to reports by the Brookings Institution and the CT State Data Center at UCONN).

I am unable to be gainfully employed due to my medical conditions, that continue to deteriorate, due to lack of access to qualified help. I am beyond sick and tired of being told "I'm sorry there's nothing else I can do for you," "And" "there are no more tests", and "no other medications." Or that I am only allowed to see an unqualified therapist. I've not been hospitalized for about 15 years, and may soon be but sourced of an apartment I've been in for over 14 years, with out unavailable to me so far, rental assistance. When I'm not ill with whatever, I'm involved with several volunteer activities, mostly advocacy for children to elderly, at neighborhood to National levels. Medically challenged human beings are not 'non-essential'.

Making do without even more of what little there is, being made to give what you don't have, this is inexcusably inhumane.

Thank you for listening.